



CONTENTS:

- **Today: Helsinki Process Bridging the World Economic Forum and the World Social Forum**
- **Helsinki Process Track Groups: G20 Summit to Bridge North-South Gaps**
- **Helsinki Group Discusses on the Final Report, New Delhi, India, 7-9 February**

TODAY: HELSINKI PROCESS BRIDGING THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM AND THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

The Helsinki Process brings together business life, civil society, and governments of the North and the South. January 27, the Helsinki Process will bridge the World Economic Forum and the World Social Forum to discuss on the same agenda of globalisation and democracy. Namely, the Helsinki Process Track reports will be released simultaneously in Davos in Switzerland, and in Porto Alegre in Brazil. These interim reports of the Helsinki Process will launch dialogue on new approaches to global problem solving, on financing for the UN Millennium Development Goals, and on global human security.

In Davos, the dialogue will be launched by Mr **Benjamin William Mkapa**, President of the Republic of Tanzania; Ms. **Paula Lehtomäki**, Finnish Minister for Foreign Trade and Development; Ms. **Mary Robinson**, Director of Ethical Globalisation Initiative; Mr. **Richard Samans**, Managing Director in the World Economic Forum; as well as Mr. **John Evans**, Secretary General of Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD.

In Porto Alegre, Track reports will be launched by Minister Dr. **Asharose Migiro** from Tanzania; Mr. **José Olivio Oliveira**, Assistant Secretary General of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions; and Mr. **Pertti Majanen**, Under-Secretary of State of Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The results of the Track Groups will be introduced also in a press conference in Helsinki in Finland by Mr. **Erkki Tuomioja**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

HELSINKI PROCESS TRACK GROUPS: G20 SUMMIT TO BRIDGE NORTH-SOUTH GAPS

The Helsinki Process Track Groups propose in their new reports a leader level G-20 to bridge North-South gaps. Track Groups see a need for a new instrument for coherent and legitimate global leadership.

Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy is in search of novel and empowering solutions to the dilemmas of global governance. It offers a forum for dialogue between major stakeholders, governments, civil society and business. One of the aims is to promote democracy in North-South relations. Thus, the high-level Helsinki Group is co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers of Finland and Tanzania, Mr. Erkki Tuomioja and Mr. Jakaya Kikwete. Its recommendations will be presented at the next Helsinki Conference in 2005, 7-9 September.

This eNews provides updates on the current issues of the Helsinki Process. You may subscribe to the eNews at www.helsinki.fi

KEY EVENTS

- **27 Jan. 2005:**
Launching of Track Reports at the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland.
- **27 Jan. 2005:**
Launching of Track Reports at the World Social Forum, Porto Alegre, Brazil.
- **7 Feb. 2005:** Media Seminar on Globalisation, Democracy and Communication, New Delhi, India (in cooperation with IPS).
- **7-9 Feb. 2005:** Third Helsinki Group Meeting, New Delhi, India.
- **27-29 April 2005:** Fourth Helsinki Group meeting, New York, USA.

- We need urgently global political leadership and coordinated action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of the UN, Foreign Affairs Ministers of Finland and Tanzania Erkki Tuomioja and Jakaya Kikwete, co-chairs of the Helsinki Process say.

For the time being, G-7/8 is the closest suitable forum for this, but it is not sufficiently global in its membership. Helsinki Process Track Groups propose a regular summit of 20 (or thereabouts) heads of the government from the North and the South. This leader level G-20 could act as an effective coordinating mechanism for global economic governance.

One Track, led by former UN Under-Secretary-General **Nitin Desai**, proposes a G20 Summit to be rooted in broad-based consultations on membership, on rotation and on the possibility to represent a group of states, undertaken by some disinterested countries.

- It may also be possible to use the reconstituted UN Security Council of 24, proposed recently by UN High Level Panel, as a legitimate basis for the composition of this 'development coordination council', Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland Erkki Tuomioja says.

One Track Group proposes the introduction of an international travelers' fee for financing global public health. The fee would be similar to an international security fee, which has been paid by international travelers on top of their airfares after 9/11.

The reports include also proposals such as public-private partnership to combat corruption, full cancellation of poor country debt, doubling aid, reforming agricultural trade, negotiating a global arms trade treaty, creating a World Environment Organization as well as a joint accountability report of the World Bank, the IMF and the WTO.

- What we need to do now is to translate our promises into action for the global majority of the poor by doubling aid, opening markets and canceling debt. We also need to find a new, more open and participatory approach to root out corruption, which is one of the main obstacles for development, Minister Erkki Tuomioja notes.

THE HELSINKI GROUP DISCUSSES ON THE FINAL REPORT, NEW DELHI, INDIA, 7-9 FEBRUARY

The high-level Helsinki Group will have its third meeting in New Delhi, India, 7-9 February. Preparing the final report of the process to be launched in June 2005, the Group will discuss on responses to the environmental crisis, the threats to security, the poverty gap, violations to human rights, the democracy deficit and the problem of corruption. When discussing on priorities for action, the Group will also reflect on the key proposals of three Track groups, introduced by **Nitin Desai**, **Fantu Cheru** and **Fen Hampson**.

The Helsinki Group aims at transformative change. It will discuss the essential elements for success based on the study on previous commissions, ranging from Palme to Brundtland. This study has been sponsored by the Helsinki Process and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada). In connection to the Group meeting, the Helsinki Process will organise a civil society event in cooperation with Citizens' Global Platform (CGP) and a media seminar with Inter-Press Service (IPS).